

Message Text

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TAGS:UNHRC, SHUM

SUBJECT: REPEAT OF GENEVA 2546, DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1978

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF GENEVA 2546, DATED 17 FEBRUARY
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6154
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: US STATEMENT ON
AGENDA ITEM 6 (PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA)
AND AGENDA ITEM 7 (ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA OF CERTAIN FORMS OF ASSISTANCE)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUBJECT STATEMENT GIVEN BY USREP
MEZVINSKY FEBRUARY 17, 1978

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QTE. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN,

WE HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE REPORT OF THE AD
HOC WORKING GROUP ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE WISH TO COMMEND THE WORKING GROUP
FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH A
DETAILED PICTURE OF THE VIOLATIONS OF SEVERAL BASIC KINDS

OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. IT COULD SERVE VERY USEFULLY AS A MODEL FOR REPORTS ON OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THERE ARE SITUATIONS OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE REPORT IS A SADDENING DOCUMENT. IT IS DISHEARTENING TO READ IN INSTANCE AFTER INSTANCE, OF THE CAPACITY FOR INSTITUTIONALIZED AND SYSTEMATIC INDUSTICE. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTEMPT TO RANK WHICH OF THE DIFFERENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE MORE SERIOUS. INDEED, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, WHETHER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL OR CIVIL, IS ESSENTIAL TO HUMAN DIGNITY. WHAT EMERGES IS THAT THE BLACK AFRICAN POPULATIONS HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY DENIED THE ACCESS TO FULL ENJOYMENT OF THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF RIGHTS. THE DEPRIVATION OF ONE TYPE OF RIGHT INEVITABLY DIMINISHES THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS. BY VIRTUE OF OUR OWN HISTORY, AND OUR INSTITUTIONS, WE ARE STRONGLY ATTACHED TO THE CONCEPT OF DUE PROCESS UNDER LAW. A DEPLORABLE SITUATION EXISTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THIS HAS BEEN WELL KNOWN FOR SOME TIME. WE ARE APPALLED BY THE CONTINUING EVIDENCE OF THE CONSISTENT DISTORTION OF LAW BY OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. DUE PROCESS OF LAW HAS BEEN PERVERTED FROM AN INSTITUTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE SOCIETY THEY COLLECTIVELY FORM,

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INTO A WEAPON TO INTIMIDATE THEM.

THERE IS PERHAPS ONE ELEMENT MISSING FROM THE REPORT. THAT IS A CONSIDERATION OF THE CORROSIVE EFFECT OF RACIAL OPPRESSION ON THOSE WHO PRACTICE IT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OPPRESSOR BECOMES HIS OWN VICTIM AND HIMSELF A PRISONER OF THE VERY APPARATUS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED TERROR AND FEAR HE HAS ERECTED TO MAINTAIN CONTROL. THIS IS THE CASE IN SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE STATE EXISTS TO SUBDUE RATHER THAN TO SERVE ITS PEOPLE.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS GRAVE DOUBTS REGARDING THE RESULTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S REPORT ON THE CAUSES OF MR. STEVE BIKO'S DEATH. WHILE IT IS A

TRAGIC FACT THAT MR. BIKO IS ONLY ONE OF MANY WHO DIED WHILE IN PRISON IN THAT COUNTRY, HE WAS A MAN OF GIANT MORAL STATURE WHO HELDOUT THE PROMISE OF SAVING SOUTH AFRICA FROM SELF-DESTRUCTION. IT WOULD SEEM THEREFORE A PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE GESTURE OF RECOGNITION FOR THIS COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING

SOMETHING LIKE THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PROPOSAL TO EXAMINE ANEW THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED AT THE INQUEST INTO STEVE BIKO'S DEATH. IT MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF ELIMINATING OR AT LEAST REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SEEMINGLY INEXPLICABLE DEATHS OF THOSE DETAINED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

WE WISH THERE HAD BEEN A SUMMARY STATEMENT IN THE REPORT ON HOW SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS HAVE DENIED ALL CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES TO THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS REGARDING OUR COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR NUCLEAR POLICY TOWARDS THAT COUNTRY. IN VIEW OF OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE TREND OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LAST YEAR, WE ARE AT PRESENT REVIEWING OUR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

WE ARE ACTIVELY REVIEWING OUR NUCLEAR POLICY AT PRESENT AND HAVE HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AIMED AT DETERMINING WHETHER AND ON WHAT BASIS WE MIGHT CONTINUE OUR NUCLEAR COOPERATION. WE WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY RECENT REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICA INTENDED

TO DETONATE A NUCLEAR DEVICE. WE HAVE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT DID NOT HAVE NOR DID IT INTEND TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE FOR ANY PURPOSE AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXPLOSIVE TEXTING OF ANY KIND IN THAT COUNTRY. WE ARE CONTINUING TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

ALL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE UNITED STATES IMPOSED AN EMBARGO ON ALL SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA OF ARMS AND RELATED

MATERIAL IN 1963. I WOULD ALSO STRESS THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS GONE BEYOND THE SECURITY COUNCIL EMBARGO OF LAST NOVEMBER AND HAS PROHIBITED ALL SHIPMENTS OF ANY GOODS TO SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES, REGARDLESS OF THE KIND OF MATERIAL INVOLVED.

WE ALSO SHARE THE DEEP EMOTION AND SENSE OF INDIGNATION THAT OTHERS HERE HAVE EXPRESSED OVER THE DEPLORABLE REALITY OF RACIAL INJUSTICE IN ALL OF THE COUNTRIES OR SOUTHERN AFRICA THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING. THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT AS TO THE CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SITUATIONS OR MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THAT SENSE THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS WE ARE DISCUSSING ELICIT A UNIQUE CONSENSUS THAT THE SITUATIONS THERE ARE TO BE DEPLORED. WHAT SEEMS TO BE REALLY AT ISSUE IS HOW TO CORRECT THOSE SITUATIONS. THERE ARE QUITE OBVIOUSLY STRONGLY HELD AND DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW ON HOW THE INJUSTICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CAN BE REMEDIED.

WE THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE PRIMARY STRESS UPON POSITIVE AND REALISTIC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FUNDAMENTALLY THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. MY GOVERNMENT HAS FOR SOME TIME NOW BEEN VIGOROUSLY ENGAGED IN WORKING FOR THE TRANSITION TO, AND THE INSTITUTION OF, DEMOCRATIC RULE IN THE COUNTRIES OR SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE INTEND TO PURSUE THESE EFFORTS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. WE INVITE THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THIS ENDEAVOR. END QTE. VANDEN HEUVEL

END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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